

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 07833 141407Z

51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 012732

R 141120Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3256

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7833

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOFTENING OF THE DRV ATTITUDE TOWARD THAILAND

REF: A. FBIS OKINAWA P120800Z MAY 74

SUMMARY: "THE NATION" NEWSPAPER MAY 13 HEADLINED A STORY BASED ON A NORTH VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY (NVNA) BROADCAST CALLING FOR CONCRETE RTG ACTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. "THE NATION" QUOTES "OBSERVERS" SAYING THE BROADCAST INDICATES A SWITCH TO A POSITIVE DRV APPROACH. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED TO THE "NATION" REPORT BY SAYING IT RAISES THE HOPES FOR A DIALOGUE. MEANWHILE, THE VICE GOVERNOR OF UBON PROVINCE TOLD AN OFFICER OF THE UDORN CONSULATE THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM SENIOR BANGKOK OFFICIALS THAT THE RTG IS ACTIVELY PURSUING CONTACTS WITH THE DRV THROUGH THE FRENCH EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE.

1. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "THE NATION" IN A MAY 13 HEADLINE STORY (REF A) RECOUNTED AN NVNA BROADCAST "CALLING ON THAILAND TO TAKE SOME CONCRETE ACTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." A COMMENTARY FROM THE HANOI DAILY "NHAN DAN" WAS REPUTEDLY THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 07833 141407Z

BASIS FOR THE BROADCAST. "THE NATION" QUOTED OBSERVERS

AS SAYING THAT "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE NEGATIVE APPROACH TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO A POSITIVE ONE". "THE NATION" STORY WENT ON TO QUOTE EXTENSIVELY FROM THE BROADCAST'S OUTLINE OF OBSTACLES TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. THESE INCLUDED THE STATIONING OF U.S. FORCES AND AIRCRAFT IN THAILAND, THAI "COLLUSION WITH THE US IN OPPOSING THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE", AND THE DETENTION OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS IN THAILAND.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA, IN A MAY 13 NEWS CONFERENCE, SAID, ACCORDING TO "THE NATION", THAT "IF THE REPORT IS CORRECT, IT RAISES HOPE OF A DIALOGUE". A KEY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL TOLD US MAY 14 THAT THE DRV HAD YET TO COMMUNICATE ANYTHING ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE RTG OFFICIALLY.

4. VICE GOVERNOR DETACHAT WONGKOMONCHET TOLD AN OFFICER FROM THE UDORN CONSULATE THAT HE HAD HEARD FROM SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK THAT THE RTG IS ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT THE DRV WITH THE HELP OF THE FRENCH EMBASSIES IN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE. THE VICE GOVERNOR SAID A SOURCE TOLD HIM THANAT KHOMAN HAD STATED PRIVATELY TO DR. PUAI UNGPHAKON THAT SOME EXCHANGE OF OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION BETWEEN THE RTG AND DRV WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHIN A YEAR. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF EITHER POSSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: THE FBIS TEXT SEEMS TO SUPPORT THE "NATION'S CONTENTION THAT THE BROADCAST INDICATES A SHIFT TO THE POSITIVE IN HANOI'S APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH THAILAND. THE VITUPERATIVE LANGUAGE THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED PAST HANOI STATEMENTS CONCERNING THAILAND IS MISSING IN THIS LATEST PRONOUNCEMENT. WHILE THE TONE IS HARDLY CONCESSIONAL, THE STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES AND OBSTACLES TO IMPROVED RELATIONS IS CONSTRUCTIVE, POSSIBLY HINTING THAT HANOI COULD FORGET THE "SINS" OF PREVIOUS THAI REGIMES IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO TAKE ACTION TO MEET DRV DEMANDS. THE MFA IS PLAYING THIS POSSIBLE OVERTURE DIPLOMATICALLY AND CAUTIOUSLY. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 07833 141407Z

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE WHEN THEY OBTAIN A TRANSLATION OF THE ORIGINAL "NHAN DAN" ARTICLE. EMBASSY VIENTIANE MAY WISH TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON WHETHER THE FRENCH HAVE A HAND IN THIS APPARENT CHANGE OF DRV TUNE. WE WILL MAKE DISCREET INQUIRIES OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE. MASTERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AMITY, RADIO BROADCASTING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO07833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740118-0365
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740551/aaaabsvv.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. FBIS OKINAWA P120800Z MAY 74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SOFTENING OF THE DRV ATTITUDE TOWARD THAILAND
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005